

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A printed circuit panel exposure machine comprising:
a first artwork support comprising a first substantially rectangular frame and a first transparent plate suitable for receiving said artwork, said first plate being secured via its periphery to said first frame;
a second artwork support comprising a second substantially rectangular frame and a second transparent plate secured via its periphery to said second frame and suitable for receiving said artwork, one of said first and second supports being movable relative to the other, said panel being placed between said first and second supports;
sealing means for providing sealing between said first and second frames of said supports when said first and second frames are pressed one against the other;
means for establishing suction in the volume defined by said first and second artwork supports and[[,]] said sealing means;
at least one deformable leaktight balloon disposed between said first and second transparent plates, said at least one deformable leaktight balloon being in contact with both transparent plates around at least a portion of said panel outside the periphery of said panel, whereby no part of said at least one deformable leaktight balloon is interposed between main faces of said panel and said first and second transparent plates around-at-least-a-portion-of-said panel;
a source of gas under pressure at a pressure greater than the pressure of said suction; and
at least one pipe for causing said at least one deformable leaktight balloon to communicate with said source of pressure thus serving, when suction is established in said volume, to cause the periphery of said first and second transparent plates to press against said at least one deformable leaktight balloon.
2. (Currently Amended) A machine according to claim 1, including wherein said at

least one deformable leaktight balloon comprises a plurality of deformable leaktight deformable balloons surrounding said panel, each of said deformable leaktight balloons being connected to said source of gas under pressure by a pipe, said deformable leaktight balloons occupying the major fraction of the space extending between the periphery of said panel and the first and second frames.

3. (Currently Amended) A machine according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of mechanical spacers interposed between said first and second frames of said artwork supports.

4. (Previously Presented) A machine according to claim 3, wherein said spacers are adjustable in thickness.

5. (Previously Presented) A machine according to claim 1, wherein said at least one deformable leaktight balloon is of horizontal dimensions much greater than its thickness.

6. (Previously Presented) A machine according to claim 1, including a plurality of sets of deformable leaktight balloons of dimensions adapted to the dimensions of panels to be exposed.

7. (Currently Amended) A machine according to claim 2, further comprising a plurality of mechanical spacers interposed between said first and second frames of said artwork supports.

8. (Previously Presented) A machine according to claim 7, wherein said spacers are adjustable in thickness.

9. (Previously Presented) A machine according to claim 2, including a plurality of sets of deformable leaktight balloons of dimensions adapted to the dimensions of panels to be exposed.

10. (New) A printed circuit panel exposure machine comprising:
 - a first artwork support comprising a first substantially rectangular frame and a first transparent plate suitable for receiving said artwork, said first plate being secured via its periphery to said first frame;
 - a second artwork support comprising a second substantially rectangular frame and a second transparent plate secured via its periphery to said second frame and suitable for receiving said artwork, one of said first and second supports being movable relative to the other, said panel being placed between said first and second supports;
 - a plurality of mechanical spacers interposed between said first and second frames, wherein said spacers are adjustable in thickness;
 - sealing means for providing sealing between said first and second frames when said first and second frames are pressed one against the other;
 - means for establishing suction in the volume defined by said first and second artwork supports and said sealing means;
 - at least one deformable leaktight balloon disposed between said first and second transparent plates around at least a portion of said panel;
 - a source of gas under pressure at a pressure greater than the pressure of said suction; and
 - at least one pipe for causing said at least one deformable leaktight balloon to communicate with said source of pressure thus serving, when suction is established in said volume, to cause the periphery of said first and second transparent plates to press against said at least one deformable leaktight balloon.